Nurses—1919.

Of Interest to Nurses

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE NURSES, BOSTON, MASS.

The Annual Convention of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses of America, which was opened in Zion A. M. E. church, Columbus Avenue, Boston Mass., Tuesday morning, August 19, continued until August 22, inclusive.

There was a large attendance at the opening session, which was devoted largely to registration and interchange of greetings, about one hundred graduates being present. Mrs. Adah B. Thoms, R. N., Superintendent of the Lincoln Hospital, New York, President of the Association, presided, and other officers present included: Miss Bertha M. Thomas, R. N., Louisville, Ky., Recording Secretary; Miss Petra Pinn, R. N., West Palm Beach, Fla., Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Nannie L. Kemp, R. N., Philadelphia, Pa., Treasurer; the Honorary Presidents and the Executive Committee. Mrs. William T. Wright, of the Advisory Board, Boston; Mrs. Gideon Craig, President of the Local Board of Nurses, and Mrs. Butler Wilson were among the entertainers who looked after the comfort of the visiting delegates during the convention.

Mrs. Thoms paid a tribute to the great work that the Colored Nurses had accomplished during the recent World War.

The young women present were a remarkably bright and intelligent group, and in their addresses demonstrated that they are good public speakers as well as first-class nurses.

After the invocation by the Chaplain, Miss Mary Mahoney, the session was opened by the President, Mrs. Adah B. Thoms, which was followed by an address on "Diseases in Africa," by Dr. Alice McKane, of Boston. "Public Health Nursing and Its Fundamental Principles," was the subject of a talk by Miss Eva A. Simms. Dr. T. E. McCurdy spoke on "The Improved Method of Sterilization of Instruments."

The public meeting was held Tuesday evening. The address of welcome was delivered by Mr. Stewart Hoyt, representative from Mayor Peter's office. Miss Mary E. P. Mahoney, the first colored graduate nurse, gave the address of welcome in behalf of the nurses; Mrs. Gaston Hill, on behalf of the citizens; Mrs. Butler Wilson and Mrs. Minnie Wright, on behalf of Woman's Municipal League. Mrs. Eva Davis Felton, R. N., Washington, D. C., made the response.

Mrs. Lillian G. Craig, R. N., read a paper on "The Necessity for a Local Nurses' Association." Paper by Dr. Edna C. Robinson, Dental Caries, Cambridge, Mass.; address, Dr. Adolph M. Gordon, Physician-Surgeon, Augusta, Ga.; paper on "Obstetrical Nursing," by Dr. Armour, Boston, Mass. Paper by Mrs. Mary Johnson,; address, "Home Service," Miss Anna King, Red Cross Civilian Relief, Boston, Mass.; paper by Miss J. C. Turner, R. N., "Echoes from Philadelphia," Germantown, Pa. Paper, "Remedial Physical Training," Miss Pearl Adams.

Greetings from Medical Association by Dr. John B. Hall, Boston, Mass. Address, Miss Grace O'Bryan, R. N., Associate Director District Nursing, Boston, Mass. Infant Welfare Work, by Miss Winifred Rand, R. N. Paper, "The Nose and Throat," by Dr. Josefa Zarratt, Boston, Mass. Address, Dr. Lily Owen Burbank, State Department of Health, Boston, Mass. Paper, "Visiting Nursing," by Miss Minthia Hankins, R. N., New York City.

Dr. Roscoe Brown, representative of Gen. Blue's office, gave a very interesting talk on "Venereal Disease Control," which was thoroughly enjoyed by the nurses; they agreed, with one accord, to endorse and co-operate in every possible way to stamp out this disease.

Mrs. Etta R. Boute, of the Circle for Negro Relief, also gave the nurses a very interesting talk on the work of the Circle, and its aim for placing nurses in the field of public health work. The nurses pledged their co-operation.

One of the features of the convention was a discussion of establishing a Central Bureau for Nurses, to be located in New York City.

Thursday evening the nurses were entertained by Mrs. Butler Wilson at the Columbus Avenue Hut.

Friday afternoon the nurses were the guests of the Mayor's Committee on a trip to Long Island State Hospital, where, after a visit through the wards and grounds, luncheon was served.

Friday evening a reception was given by the citizens at Convention Hall. The local committee spared no pains in making the visiting nurses' stay a very pleasant one, returning to their various homes benefited by their stay in Boston.

The next meeting of the National Association will be held in Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., August, 1920.

A letter of protest was sent to Congress and Senators Lodge of Massachusetts, a plea for justice for the race, against rioting and mob violence.

Officers elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. Adah B. Thoms, R. N., New York; First Vice-President, Miss A. A. Nelson, R. N., Columbia. S. C.; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Lillian G. Craig, R. N., Dorchester, Mass.; Recording Secretary, Miss Bertha M. Thomas, R. N., Louisville, Ky.; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Petra Pinn, R. N., West Palm Beach, Fla.; Treasurer, Mrs. N. L. Kemp, R. N., Philadelphia, Pa,; Chaplain, Miss Mary Mahoney, R. N., Boston, Mass.; Journalist, Miss Florence M. Harris, R. N., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Auditing Committee, Mrs. E. Davis Felton, R. N., Washington, D. C.; Ways and Means Committee, Miss L. G. Wallick, Kansas City, Mo.; Printing Committee, Miss Octavia Waters, R. N., Norfolk, Va.; Membership Committee, Miss Mabel O. Story, St. Louis, Mo.; National Organizer, Mrs. G. P. Vorhees, R. N., Philadelphia, Pa.

The National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses convening in Boston, Mass., August 19-22, express their sentiments in behalf of our loyal men who protected their homes at the time of the recent riots in Washington and Chicago. We highly commend those brave men, and feel that this is the only solution whereby the race may enjoy true democracy.

THE FUTURE NURSE.

BY MRS. MOLLIE BENNETT, R. N.

While the Nineteenth Century will always be noted as the period of brilliant and far-reaching discoveries in the realm of medical science, the Twentieth Century is witnessing a revolution in medical and nursing practice such as the practitioner of fifty years ago had not begun to dream of.

The care of the sick in a modern community of today is one of distribution rather than the discovery of new facts, the better application of known medical facts through organization and education. There was a time not many years ago when the nurse was not even allowed to take the patient's temperature. Now a patient takes sick, the doctor is called, and the first thing he orders is either a trained nurse or the patient sent to the hospital. Every up-to-date physician wants his patient left in the care of skilled hands, in the hands of some one who gives the medicine by exact doses, and on time, some one who sees that surroundings are sanitary and that the patient is made comfortable in every possible way. Little by little the nurse is coming to take over the duties formerly performed by the doctor, until she now does whatever can be reached by routine. We find in some of the swellest hospitals of the country nurses making blood examination, taking blood pressure, anesthetizing, doing X-Ray work, and all kind of laboratory procedure.

Time has done much in the last fifteen years toward widening the field for nurses' opportunities, and each year her field grows broader and broader, until there is practically no limit to it, except a nurse's own ability, disposition and ambitions. The nurses whose diplomas were signed twenty years ago may well envy the pupil nurse of today, her advantages and opportunities.

One great danger that besets the nurse of today is that there are so many gates ajar, that at times she will become bewildered at which to enter. Ofttimes this proves too great a danger, and we find a nurse who may know how to do several things moderately well, but there should be one main branch of service in which she should excel, and to which she should devote the main part of her study, if she is really going to count for anything. She should purchase the best books, subscribe for the best journals. If Public Health

Nursing appeals to you prepare for it, knock at the door and be able to enter without stumbling when it is opened. We have several colored nurses engaged in this work in several of our large cities. Nothing has been more beneficial to our people than the appearance of a trained nurse in the home. One who goes into the nasty, dirty home teaches the patient's family how to clean up, how to bathe the children, how to use the tooth brush, how to eat sanitary food, etc. What has reduced the death rate of tuberculosis among our people more than the visit of the nurse, who goes in and teaches the patient how to use the sputum cup instead of the nasty rags and the floor, teaches the value of fresh air and sunshine?

If you wish to do hospital work, then get ready for it.

If Red Cross work interests you, prepare, not to be a good colored nurse, but prepare to be as good as the country afford. Our great Emmett Scott promises to prepare the way for us. Be ready for the call; it is sure to come.

Nurses—1919.

COLORED NURSE ACCEPTED FOR POSTGRADUATE COURSE

Miss Coral E. Smith of Norfolk, Va., on Duty at Bellevue, Then Transferred to Harlem Hospital

DISMISSED AFTER TWO DAYS

Bellevue and Harlem Hospitals to Answer in Court for Alleged Discrimination.

Charging unjust discrimination and a violation of the Civil Rights Law of the State of New York, Miss Coral E. Smith of 1248 Church street, Norfolk, Va., a graduate of the Hampton Training School for Nurses at Hampton, Va., has entered suits for damages against Bellevue and its allied institution, the Harlem Hospital.

Miss Smith made application to the Bellevue Hospital Training School for a six months' post graduate course and, under date of August 8, was notified by the general superintendent of the training school that her application had been favorably acted upon. She was notified to appear on October 15, the following being a copy of the letter she received:

"Aug. 8, 1919.

"My dear Madam:

"I beg to notify you of the acceptance of your application for a six months' post graduate course and will ask you to report on Oct. 15 at Harlem Hospital, which is one of our out-lying institutions, situated in 136th street and Lenox avenue, New York City. In case of withdrawal from the school, we require a notification of two weeks. Let me know at once if we may expect you without further notice on the above-mentioned date."

Dismissed After Two Days.

This letter was signed by the general superintendent of training schools, and the stationery indicated that it was sent from East 26th street, New York, the office of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals. In accordance with the instructions received, Miss Smith reported on October 15, and began her duties at Bellevue. After two days there, she was transferred to the Harlem Hospital.

Upon reporting at Harlem Hospital Miss Smith was informed by those in authority that colored nurses were not employed at that institution and her summary dismissal followed. This action was taken by the Harlem Hospital authorities, notwithstanding that only recently its doors have been opened for service by colored physicians and a Negro doctor appointed as interne.

Because of this action by the hospital authorities, Miss Smith has engaged the law firm of Wheaton, Leavelle & Marshall and through them instituted actions against Bellevue and Harlem Hospitals to compel them to observe the law.

Miss Smith attended school in Columbia, S. C., being a graduate of the Howard High School and of Allen University, after which she entered Hampton for the course in nursing.

GRADUATE NURSE DISCHARGED FROM N. Y. HOSPITAL

APPLICATION ACCEPTED. REJECTED AS SOON AS COLOR WAS KNOWN.

Has Entered Suit Against Bellevue Hospital.

New York, N. Y., Nov. 13.—Charging unjust discrimination and a violation of the Civil Rights Law of the State of New York, Miss Coral E. Smith of 1248 Church street, Norfolk, Va., a graduate of the Hampton Training School for Nurses at Hampton, Va., has entered suits for damages against Bellevue and its allied institution, the Harlem Hospital.

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New York Age.

UNION HOSPITAL TO TEACH NURSING CLASS BEGINS NOV. 10

10-8-19

When the announcement was first made last year that Houston physicians had decided to establish a hospital in this city, there were "doubting Thomases" galore and "it-can't-be-done" apostles abounded abundantly. These doctors were not deterred nor discouraged by such idle talk and while others indulged in hot air and would-be knocks, they assiduously applied themselves to the task of giving their people a real hospital with modern methods, facilities and conveniences. Already their efforts have seen fruition and today the Union hospital is a permanent adjunct to the race's civil life in this community, and is truly justifying its existence.

A tree is judged by the fruit it bears. If this be true, the Union hospital staff has certainly measured up to its opportunity and has not defaulted nor faltered in its labors and endeavors Moreover, the hospital deserves the support of our people.

This hospital is located in the Fou Ward, 1118 Howard Street, corn Lion and is easily accessible by automobiles and street cars. A large, two-story structure is employed and the equipment is of a high class order.

The following constitute the official roster and staff: Dr. Charles A. Jackson, president; Dr. R. F. Ferrill, vice president; Dr. H. E. Lee, secretary; Dr. B. J. Covington, treasurer; Dr F. F. Stone, superintendent; Dr. R. O Roett, resident physician; Miss B. B Shortt, registered nurse; Drs. J. F Terrell, E. B. Ramsey, F. L. McDavid

A new departure will be undertak beginning with Monday, November when a class in nurse training w be formed and instruction begun. Th work will be done with the view o training and developing women of the race as efficient nurses, which field offers a most excellent opportunity to the women of our race. Prospective students can apply at Union hospital for enrollment or telephone Preston 732.

The Informer congratulates the hospital staff for its humanitarian efforts and urges that our women, especially the young women, avail themselves of this nurse training course and thereby qualify themselves to be of service to humanity and at the same time receive a lucrative remuneration.

GRADUATE NURSES PROVE GOOD TALKERS

9-13-19

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE)

Boston, Mass.—There was a large attendance at the opening session of the annual convention of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses of America, which was held in Zion A. M. E. Church, Columbus avenue, August 19 to 22. The ing women present formed a markably bright and intelligent group and in their addresses demonstrated that they are good public speakers as well as fi st class nurses. One of the features of the convention was the discussion of the project for establishing a central bureau for nurses to be located in New York City.

BOSTON, MASS., TRANSCRIPT AUGUST 19, 1919

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...day ...Island will be given ...y the City of Boston. The convention ...erminates Friday evening with a reception ...y the citizens of Boston.

New Orleans to Have School for Nurses

9-27-19

New Orleans, La., Sept. 26.—Progress during the last two weeks is reported on the repairs and alterations under way at the Providence Sanitarium, an institution for our people, located at Delachaise and Robertson streets, Algiers. Bids have been let for painting the building. Work has reached the point permitting installation of the sterilizers and tables in the operating room. The building to be occupied as permanent homes for the nurses will be ready for tenancy within a few weeks, it is announced, and the entire establishment, after a thorough renovation, with its equipment, is expected to form one of the most complete training schools for nurses in the South.

Harlem Hospital Restores Colored Nurse to Classes

The New York Age 11-29-19.

Suit Under Civil Rights Law Withdrawn When Bellevue Trustees Remove Restrictions Placed by Local Officials.

Miss Coral T. Smith, of 1248 Church street, Norfolk, Va., the young woman who was admitted to the nurse training department of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals for a six months' postgraduate course and then dismissed from the Harlem Hospital after two days because "no Negro nurses were accepted" at that institution, is back at her post in Harlem Hospital, under much more advantageous conditions than at first.

THE AGE of November 1 told of the treatment accorded Miss Smith by the Harlem Hospital authorities and of the fact that a suit had been entered by her attorneys, Wheaton, Leavelle & Marshall, against Bellevue and Harlem Hospitals to force recognition of her rights.

A few days later John J. O'Keefe, 60 Broadway, a trustee of Bellevue Hospital, called up THE AGE office and made the statement that as soon as information reached the board of trustees as to the treatment accorded Miss Smith that body took up the matter with the head of the nurse training department and that the colored nurse had been returned to duty. In speaking of the case, Mr. O'Keefe declared that the Bellevue authorities had a very friendly feeling for the colored physicians and nurses and that this had been shown by the employment of Negro physicians at both Bellevue and Harlem Hospitals.

Civil Suit Withdrawn.

An AGE representative asked Capt. Marshall of the law firm of Wheaton, Leavelle & Marshall, concerning this case and was informed that after suit had been entered against the hospital authorities under the State Civil Rights Law, a conference was held with his firm by a committee of hospital officials. This committee was composed of Dr. O'Hanlon, Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Blagden. At this conference it was agreed that Miss Smith was to be reinstated at Harlem Hospital for the six months' postgraduate course as originally agreed.

The hospital emissaries also made a special request that Miss Smith should both room and board at the hospital, and in case she preferred rooming outside, insisted that she would at least take her meals at the hospital with the other nurses, all of whom are white.

Another special consideration shown Miss Smith was in the agreement to pay her $50 per month during the six months of her course instead of $8, the amount usually paid to student nurses. The reinstatement of Miss Smith, with these concessions, automatically removed the cause for a civil suit and the action was consequently withdrawn.

Inquiry brings the information that Miss Smith is being accorded every courtesy and consideration by her associate nurses, by the physicians and all others with whom she comes in contact in the course of her daily duties. While puraung this course, Miss Smith is stopping at 2329 Seventh avenue.

BOSTON MASS POST
AUGUST 20 1916

COLORED NURSES HOLD CONVENTION

"Negroes will have to work out their own salvation, and work it out alone before they will be recognized," said Mrs. Etnah Rochon Boutte at the opening session of the 12th annual convention of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses yesterday at Zion A. M. E. Church.

Mrs. Boutte, who is executive secretary for the Circle for Negro Relief, urged the necessity of carrying on and enlarging the work of the circle.

"The programme we have planned includes trained visiting nurses, day nur series and small community hospitals As the first step toward carrying ou this programme, various units are do ing home service work, assisting loca charities, giving scholarships, raisin day nursery and visiting nurse funds conducting a clothes reconstruction bu reau for children's clothes, establishin kindergartens and extending schoo terms in rural districts. We need th help of everyone and are appealing t both white and colored people for con tributions to carry on this work."

NURSES TO MEET IN BOSTON.

The twelfth annual convention of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses will be held in Boston Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 19, 20, 21 and 22. All members are requested to attend and all nurses cordially invited. Mrs. Adah B. Thoms is president and Miss Petra F. Pinn corresponding secretary.

TWO REGISTERED NURSES WILL BE EMPLOYED FOR SCHOOLS

Board of Education Will Also Provide One Nurse For Negro Schools; Hill Discusses Matter

Two registered nurses for the white schools and one for the negro schools of Montgomery will be employed at once, pursuant to action taken by the city board of education at a meeting Saturday morning. It had been suggested that a special all-time school physician also be employed, but this work, it was announced, will be done by Dr. W. A. McPaul, city health officer, in addition to his other duties.

The nurses will make systematic inspections of the school children and will render regular reports concerning the health conditions in the various public schools of Montgomery.

J. Lister Hill, president of the board of education, said Saturday:

"The Board of Education, realizing that the best returns from the money invested in the operation of the public schools can be secured only when pupils and teachers are at a maximum of physical efficiency, and that the health and efficiency of the adult can be no greater than that his childhood has left him, has lately given much cosnideration to the question of health supervision in the city public schools.

"A committee of the Board was appointed to study various systems now in effect and to recommend to the Board some program to improve health conditions among school children and safeguard them from disease, that might be organized with the limited sum at the disposal of the Board. This committee, after conference with the constituted health authorities and discussions with experts, recommend that for the present the Board employ two registered nurses for the white schools and one for the colored schools. This recommendation was adopted.

"These nurses will give their entire time to the schools, and will be guided and assisted in the performance of their duties by the City Health Officer, Dr. W. A. McPhaul. They will make systematic inspection of the school children and will render regular reports of the health conditions at the different schools to the superintendent.

"The plan of employing nurses in medical inspection and health supervision was first adopted in New York City in 1902, and its successful operation there was marked and followed by other cities. It is no longer in an experimental state and its value in the conservation of national health by the prevention of epidemics, the discovery of remediable physical defects, and the teaching of better "health habits" is incalcuable.

"The regulation governing the readmission of pupils who have been excluded from school on account of illness has been modified. In all cases of quarantinable disease, pupils must secure permits from the city health officer before they return to school. In all other cases principals are authorized to accept the certificate of any reputable physician.

"All children who attend the city public schools are required to show evidence of vaccination against smallpox. This custom prevails in most cities.

"While providing for "health in education" the Board has not forgotten "education in health" and has secured an expert to direct the physical training in the schools. He plans systematic graded exercises for developing the body and correcting bad habits of posture and breathiug. This work is augmented in the high school by the work of the instructor in military tactics. Besides the formal work in the high school organized athletics for both boys and girls provide wholesome recreation and development. In the elementary schools pleasure and relaxation are afforded by directed games, drills and dramatized stories.

"The individual teacher also plays an important part in training the children to realize the importance of high standards of health. They understand the close relation between the mental and physical condition of the children and are on the alert for symptoms of illness or fatigue. They give lessons in elementary hygiene and sanitation, emphasizing the fundamentals of good health, cleanliness, fresh air, proper food, exercise—and endeavor by constant precept to show that the highest power comes through the proper functioning of a sound mind and a sound body."

SEYMOUR CARROLL

SPECIAL ASSISTANT
SOUTHERN DIVISION
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA — COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA